REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 13-15, and 17-37 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 23, and 27-37 are rejected. Claims 17 and 37 are objected to. Claims 15 and 17-22 are allowed. Claims 17 and 37 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants respectfully thank Examiner for allowing Claims 15 and 17-22.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 17 and 37 are objected to as being dependent on cancelled claims. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from Claim 15, and Claim 37 has been amended to depend from Claim 23. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the corresponding objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 23, 27-29, and 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,812,799 by Zuravleff, hereinafter referred to as the "Zuravleff" reference, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,592 by Jeddeloh, hereinafter referred to as the "Jeddeloh" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited references in respectfully submit that they do not render the above claims unpatentable. Applicants direct Examiner to Claim 1, which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

> A method of speculatively issuing memory requests while maintaining a specified packet order comprising:
> receiving a first packet and a second packet for forwarding, wherein said first packet is received prior to said second packet;
> sending a first memory request corresponding to said first packet;
> sending a second memory request corresponding to said second packet prior to receiving a first memory reply corresponding to said first memory request;
> forwarding said first packet prior to forwarding said second packet; and

receiving a second memory reply prior to forwarding said first packet.

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 23 recite similar limitations. Claims 4, 6, 31, and 32 that depend from Claim 1, Claims 11, 13, 33, and 34 that depend from Claim 8, and Claims 27-29 and 35-37 that depend from Claim 23 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Examiner has previously acknowledged that Zuravleff does not teach receiving a second memory reply prior to forwarding a first packet. Office Action mailed July 7, 2006, page 11, bullet #6. Examiner accordingly cites Jeddeloh as teaching this limitation. As Applicants understand Jeddeloh, its focus is a memory controller that is on the *receiving* end of memory requests. Jeddeloh, col. 6, lines 26-62. In contrast, and by way of example, Claim 1 is concerned with the *sending* side of memory requests (*sending* a first request, *sending* a second request, etc.). To the extent that Jeddeloh discusses *receiving* multiple requests and sending multiple replies, Jeddeloh does not indicate that they originate from the *same source*. Figure 1 of Jeddeloh shows several buses (22, 24, 33) by which memory controller 18 may receive the requests. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that in order to render Claim 1 unpatentable, Jeddeloh would have to teach or suggest that the same device (video controller 31, for example) is involved with both requests and their corresponding replies. Applicants respectfully submit that this is neither taught nor suggested by Jeddeloh.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 8, and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and are thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 6, 31, and 32 that depend from Claim 1, Claims 11, 13, 33, and 34 that depend from Claim 8, and Claims 27-29 and 35-37 that depend from Claim 23 are also in condition for allowance and being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 7, 14, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuravleff in view of Jeddeloh in further view of United States Patent 5,875,466 by Wakerly, hereinafter referred to as the "Wakerly" reference. As stated above, Applicants believe that Claims 1, 8, and 23 are allowable over Zuravleff

and Jeddeloh. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Wakerly does not overcome the shortcomings of Zuravleff and Jeddeloh mentioned above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7 that depends from Claim 1, Claim 14 that depends from Claim 8, and Claim 30 that depends from Claim 23 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.
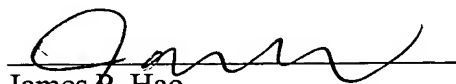
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, 13-14, 23, and 27-37 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Bill O'Meara at 970-898-7917 if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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